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African American actors, Los Angeles, 1940s

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Item Overview

TITLE	African American actors, Los Angeles, 1940s
PHOTOGRAPHER	Merriman, Ted
DATE CREATED	[1940s?]
DATE	1940/1949
LANGUAGE	No linguistic content
COLLECTION	Walter L. Gordon, Jr./William C. Beverly, Jr. Collection

Notes

SUMMARY	Eddie Greenwas an African American comedian who performed with the Billy Minsky burlesque show for about five years and played the character Eddie the waiter on the radio program Duffy's Tavern. Louise Beavers was a well known African was a member of the Sigma Gamma Rho sorority and in 1976 was posthumously inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame. George Garner was a tenor vocalist and conductor. He was the first African American to sing with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Lillian Randolph (later Lillian Randolph Chase) was an African American radio,
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television and film actress, as well as a singer. She was the younger sister of Amanda Randolph (also an actress). Lillian's best known role was the maid Birdie Lee Coggins on the Great Gildersleeve, a radio program that moved to television. Herman Spurlock was known for putting together shows and entertainment for nightclubs and fundraisers. He was well known on Central Avenue. Hattie McDaniel was the first African American actress to win an Academy Award, an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress as Mammy in Gone with the Wind. Lillian Cumber (Victoria Lillian Fisher) started as a secretary for Walter L. Gordon, was a newspaper columnist for 25 years, and in 1956 founded the Lil Cumber Attraction Agency for African American actors. She was the first African American woman to represent actors in the Motion Picture and Television industry. Ben Carter was an African American character actor on stage, screen, and radio. He often worked as a straight man with Mantan Moreland in vaudeville routines. He acted in many movies, often uncredited, including Maryland (1940) and Reap the Wild Wind (1942). He died in New York in either 1946 or 1947.

DESCRIPTION

All information concerning the content and description of the image was provided by Walter Gordon.
L to R: Ben Carter, Herman Spurlock (seated), Louise Beavers (seated), Jack Chase, Lillian Randolph Chase, Norma Green, Hattie McDaniel, C. W. Hill, Eddie Green (in profile), George Garner, an unidentified woman, and Lil (Lillian) Cumber.

Physical Description

EXTENT1 photograph : b&w

Keywords

GENREBlack-and-white photographs
NAMESHill, C. W. (Charles Wesley), Dr., 1900-1977
Garner, George, 1892-1971
Carter, Ben, 1911-1947
Spurlock, Herman
Green, Eddie, 1901-1950
Randolph, Lillian, 1898-1980
Chase, Jack, 1917-1972
Green, Norma Ann Amato, 1923-2010
Cumber, Lil, 1920-2002
McDaniel, Hattie, 1895-1952
Beavers, Louise, 1902-1962
LOCATIONCalifornia--Los Angeles
RESOURCE TYPEstill image
SUBJECTSEntertainment
Talent scouts--California--Los Angeles
African American businesspeople--California--Los Angeles
Secretaries--California--Los Angeles
African American actors--California--Los Angeles
African American motion picture actors and actresses--California--Los Angeles

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